

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I was unable to make votes on Monday, July 27th. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Rollcall No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, which impacted my flight options, I was not present in the House and unable to vote on July 27, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Rollcall No. 167.

CENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN LEGION EARL GRAHAM POST 159

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year anniversary of American Legion Earl Graham Post 159. American Legion Post 159 was chartered 13 February 1920 and named after First Lieutenant Cyrus Earl Graham, Texas A&M University class of 1916.

Lieutenant Graham was a member of the United States Army Air Corps and was killed in action in France on 9 November 1918.

From the beginning, The American Legion created an egalitarian organization open to membership regardless of race, gender, or religion. Post 159 has embodied these goals and has been a community-minded organization since its inception 100 years ago.

During this period, Post 159 has been dedicated to serving the local Brazos Valley community through events such as the Brazos County Fair and the historical Juneteenth Celebration, both of which were hosted on The American Legion grounds. These events saw over 1,000 people come together to embrace our community.

Post 159 of The American Legion continues its commitment to the community to this day, with programs that provide activities for local youth and veterans, as well as support for Active Duty military members currently serving overseas.

The annual Resource Fair and Veterans Assistance program provides over \$20,000 in financial assistance to veterans in need.

Madam Speaker, it is clear that The American Legion Earl Graham Post 159 has had a

significant and positive impact on the Brazos Valley during its 100-year history.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this significant milestone and their contributions to our veterans and to our community.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, and for our military men and women who protect us and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF BULLHEAD CITY CHIEF OF POLICE BRIAN WILLIAMSON

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Bullhead City Chief of Police Brian Williamson, ending a career serving our country for 32 years in law enforcement.

Chief Williamson began his honorable career in 1988 by enlisting in the U.S. Army as a military police officer. He would leave the Army in 1992, only to enter public law enforcement to protect the people of Western Arizona.

After serving with the Mohave County Sheriffs Office, Chief Williamson became a patrol officer with the Bullhead City Police Department, working his way through the ranks to eventually achieve the position of chief of police, where he has served for the last nine years. This year, Chief Williamson is entering a much-deserved retirement and we in Western Arizona deeply thank him for his tireless service to Mohave County.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chief Williamson for his lifetime of service to our nation and offer my warmest wishes for a happy retirement. Western Arizona is safer and stronger on the back of the service provided by Chief Williamson and his officers, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chief Williamson well in the next adventures life brings.

H.R. 2, THE MOVING FORWARD ACT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of medium-sized cities in Washington state and across the country who play a critical role in driving the nation's economy.

In Washington state, transportation and infrastructure mean jobs and are key to economic recovery as the nation grapples with the

COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, the House passed H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, a comprehensive package that invests more than \$1.5 trillion in America's transportation and infrastructure over the next five years. This includes nearly \$7 billion for Washington state's transportation network. The Moving Forward Act is part of a long-term vision to put Americans back to work, jumpstart the economy and make the transportation network smarter, safer and greener.

Although H.R. 2 significantly increases surface transportation funding, it falls short in helping the nation's medium-sized cities, like Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood and Oak Harbor in my district. Congress must recommit to supporting medium-sized cities' efforts to improve their transportation systems and foster economic development. We can do this by increasing federal infrastructure investment.

Previously known as Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program awards grants to local surface transportation projects across the country. However, the BUILD program's structure can force medium-sized cities to delay or indefinitely postpone vital transportation projects.

The City of Mountlake Terrace, Washington is one example. The city applied for a BUILD grant in 2011 and 2012 to help fund the redevelopment of Main Street to facilitate economic development and affordable housing connected to the planned Light Rail station. Despite receiving among the highest economic benefit ratios by DOT, the city's population size was the main reason DOT did not fund the project.

The City of Shoreline, Washington faced a similar problem. For the past two years, Shoreline has submitted a BUILD grant application for a project to rebuild a highway interchange that will help reduce congestion and improve mobility. Although this project was highly rated and advanced to the Transportation Secretary's desk for consideration, it has not received federal funding due to its medium-sized population.

To help address these issues, I introduced the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development for Underfunded Projects (BUILD UP) Act earlier this year. The BUILD UP Act would require at least 30 percent of funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD grant funding be awarded to cities with 10,000 to 75,000 residents. Over the past two years, cities with populations between 10,000 and 75,000 have received approximately 35 percent of BUILD funding. The BUILD UP Act would codify current DOT distribution practice and not re-route funding from other rural or urban areas.

As the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress must ensure medium-sized cities can access the federal resources necessary to proceed with shovel-ready infrastructure projects and to help put Americans back to work. I encourage House leadership

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